



Highland Archaeology Services Ltd

Archaeological Evaluation: Site for New Housing



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Evaluation: Site for New Housing

The Square: Dornoch, Sutherland

Site Code:	HAS/DBP07
Grid Reference:	NH 798 896
Client:	JA Property Development Ltd
Report Date:	17 May 2007
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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was conducted in April 2007 to establish the nature and extent of any archaeology likely to be affected by a development at The Square in Dornoch, Sutherland. This was done in order to fulfil the planning condition outlined by the Highland Council. Desk-based background research was followed by an initial walkover survey and subsequent archaeological trenching evaluation of the site prior to development. The footings of the former Sutherland Arms Hotel were found as well as features of possible earlier date. As a result of this, the foundation trenches for the new building are to be excavated archaeologically and any archaeology within them will be recorded before removal.

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Location

The site is centred approximately at Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference NH 798 896, in the town square of Dornoch in Sutherland (see Figure 1 below). It is within the local authority area of the Highland Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by the Highland Council Archaeology Unit (HCAU).

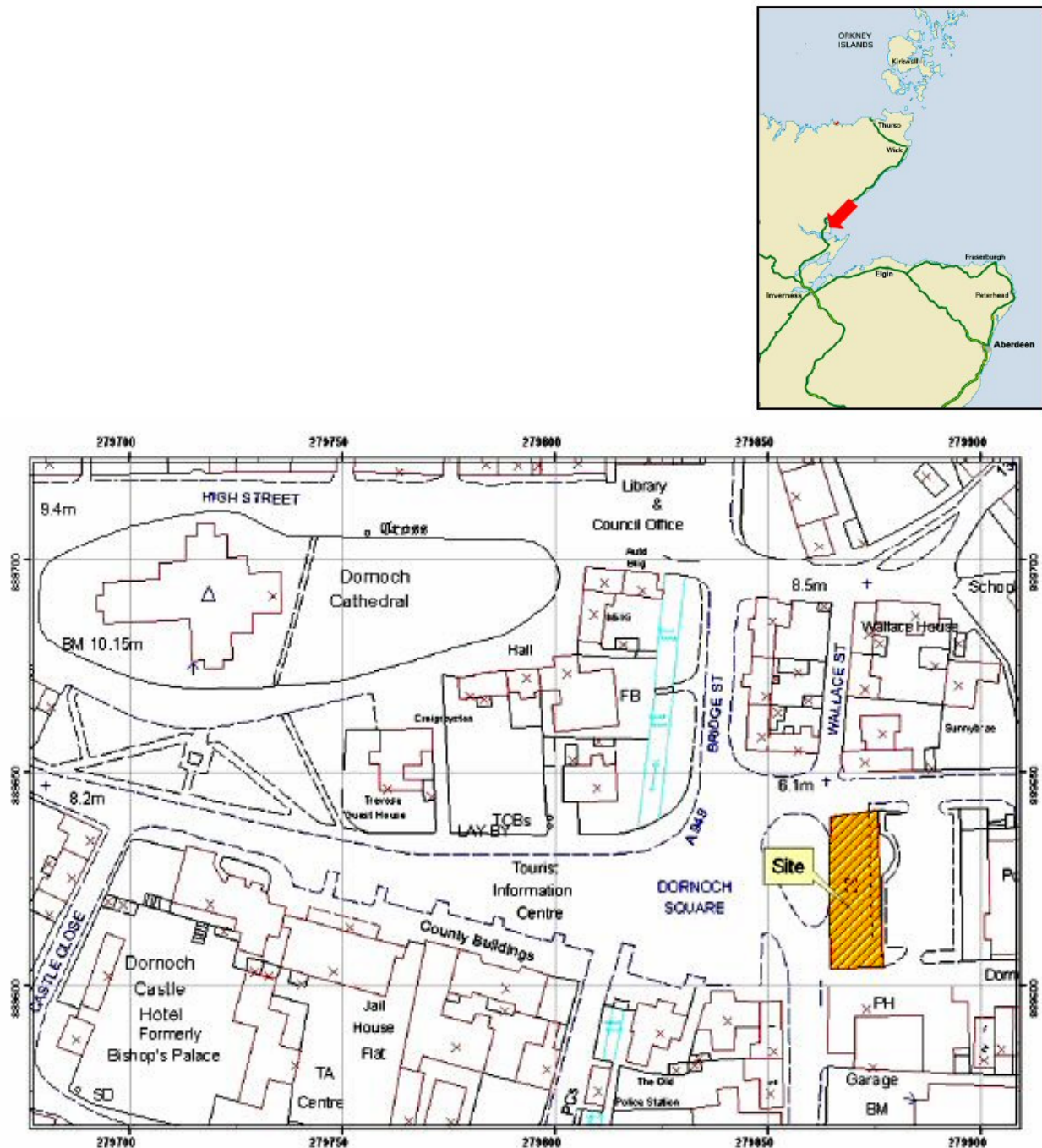


Figure 1 Site Location
Grid lines at 50m intervals

Introduction and Planning Background

An archaeological evaluation was conducted by Highland Archaeology Services at The Square in Dornoch, Sutherland in April 2007 on behalf of JA Development Property Ltd to fulfil a planning requirement prior to development of the site for flats. This report summarises the results.

The programme consisted of a desk-based assessment, followed by a walkover survey, and an initial archaeological trenching evaluation consisting of one trench. At the request of the Highland Council three additional trenches were then opened.

Archaeological background and cultural significance

There is a long history of settlement in the south-eastern part of Sutherland around Dornoch. Many recorded prehistoric sites such as Neolithic chambered cairns (NH78NE1, NH78NE12) and Iron Age hut circles (Camore Wood, Scheduled Ancient Monument 5898) provide evidence of very early settlement in the fertile plains and sheltered bays around the Dornoch Firth. A large collection of carved symbol stones in Dunrobin Museum in Golspie, recovered in Caithness and Sutherland, seems to demonstrate a prosperous Pictish population in the region before the Viking occupation in the 9th century¹.

Little is known about settlement in Dornoch until the 13th century when Bishop Gilbert de Moray assigned the seat of the Caithness/Sutherland diocese to Dornoch. Dornoch retained the bishopric until it was abandoned in the mid 1500s², after which there is little documentation about life in Dornoch until the late 1790s.

Medieval Dornoch, despite the acquisition of the title of royal burgh in 1628³ and the attempts at improving the town's prosperity, never flourished and did not experience any notable growth until well after Britain's Industrial Revolution⁴. The account of Dornoch from Sir John Ulbster's *Statistical Accounts of Scotland* in the 1790s tells of a lack of trade and general poverty amongst the few craftsmen and approximately 500 inhabitants of Dornoch⁵. The notes of the Dornoch Town Council corroborate these conditions, as do the Chambers' description in 1832, indicating a general lack of industry and growth in addition to the town's inability to maintain private and public buildings and services⁶.

There was, however, one documented attempt at improving the town. Between 1811-1816, as recorded in Hector MacKay's *Old Dornoch-Its Traditions and Legends*, the future Duke of Sutherland made some changes to the town for the sake of his future estates. This included clearing houses south of the High Street, clearing houses in the Castle Close, straightening the burn and laying out Castle Street and Bridge Street⁷.

The archaeological investigation of the site in Dornoch Square has significant potential for enhancing the poor historical record and uncovering evidence of life in Medieval and Post-medieval Dornoch.

¹ Hook, Michael. *A History of the Royal Burgh of Dornoch*. Dornoch: Historylinks Museum, 2005.

² Simpson, W. Douglas. *The Ancient Stones of Scotland*. London : Robert Hale & Co, 1968.

³ Hook, Michael. *A History of the Royal Burgh of Dornoch*. Dornoch: Historylinks Museum, 2005: 24.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid: 39-40.

⁶ Ibid: 36-37, 65, 67.

⁷ Ibid: 68-69.

Aims and objectives

The archaeological investigation was requested in this case because of the site's location in the centre of the historical town of Dornoch in order to reduce the risk of finds or features of interest being damaged during site works.

The overall aims of the archaeology programme were to:

1. Minimize any possible delay or costs to the development by anticipating any archaeological requirements as far as possible, timetabling and integrating archaeological recording work with the project, and dealing with any issues arising quickly and efficiently.
2. Determine as far as possible the character, extent, condition, date and significance of any archaeologically significant remains; and to preserve these where possible and record where necessary in line with NPPG 5 (SOEND 1994) and PAN 42 (SOEND 1994).
3. Ensure that any artefacts or human remains are dealt with in accordance with legal requirements and current Historic Scotland policy guidance.
4. Meet the requirements of the Highland Council Archaeology Unit for this project.

Methods

1. A desk-based assessment was conducted prior to fieldwork and all accessible records were checked for archaeological information.
2. An initial walkover survey and risk assessment was conducted on 30 March 2007.
3. In accordance with the planning requirement, an initial trial trenching evaluation was conducted to assess the site for features of archaeological interest prior to development (Figure 2, below). Due to the results of the evaluation of the first trench, this was followed by the evaluation of an additional three trenches (Figure 4, below).
4. A digital photographic record was made, and all photographs and an index are included with this report.
5. No human remains were encountered.

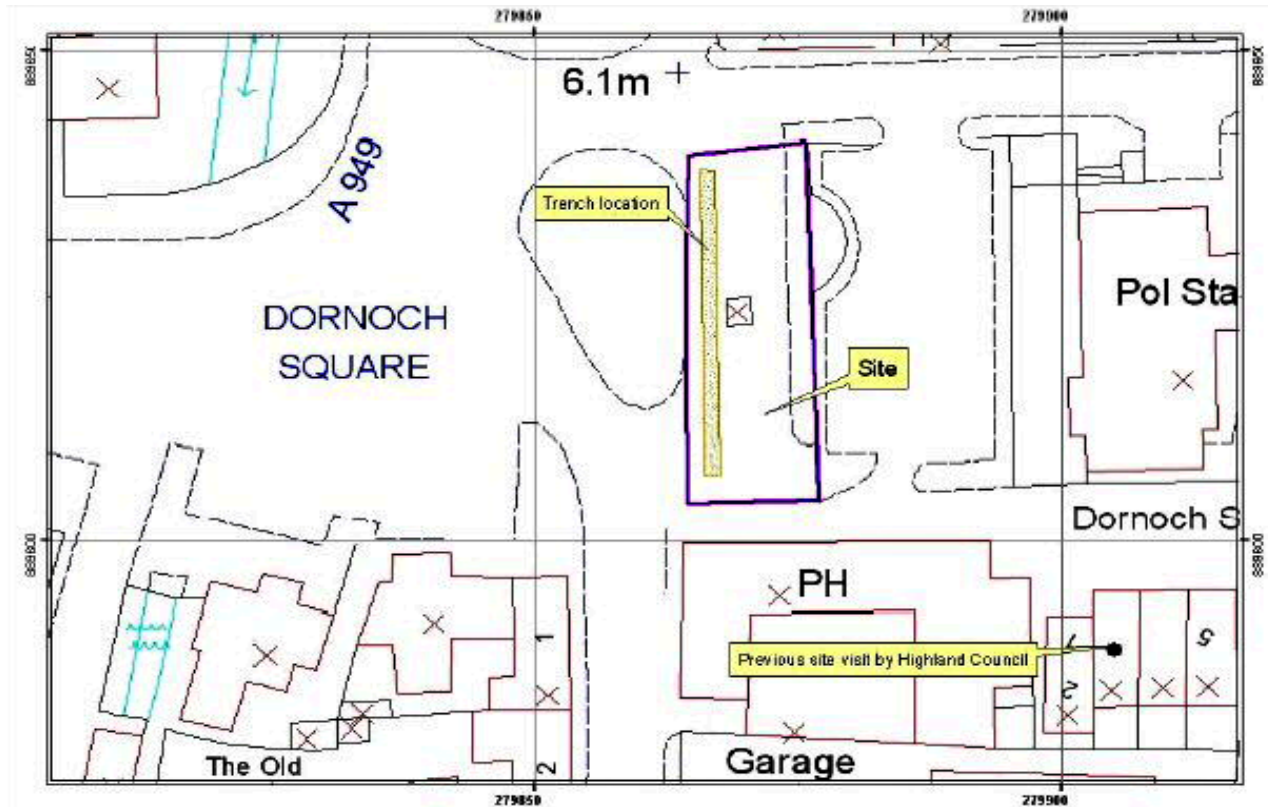


Figure 2 Location of first evaluation trench

Results

Desk-based assessment

The Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and the National Monuments Record for Scotland (NMRS) were checked and there are no Scheduled Monuments or Listed Buildings within the site, although numerous Listed Buildings surround the location east of the medieval cathedral and castle in Dornoch Square.

The site was last used for a petrol filling station, during which time the installation of tanks and pipes disturbed many subsurface areas. More important in our investigation, the site was also home to the Sutherland Arms Hotel (Highland SMR NH78NE0076) that burnt down in 1941 (see Figure 3 below). Local residents attest that the majority of the hotel structural remains were cleared from the site, though not until many years after the fire.



Figure 3 Postcard: Sutherland Arms Hotel 1909

The above photograph shows that the hotel was clearly a combination of two distinct buildings from different eras. The building to the right (south half of the site) is more typical of the late 18th or early 19th c. style of Highland architecture, predating the larger, late Victorian or Edwardian style building to the left. Several photographs taken after 1909 document various small additions to the front of the hotel. These included a conservatory and bay window (see Figure 5 below).

Only a few archaeological investigations have been recorded within the town of Dornoch. In July 2003, an investigation (NMRS NH78NE72) by the Highland Council of an area 35m to the east of the site (see Figure 2 above), suggested the possibility of medieval and post medieval surfaces on the site. This enhances the argument for some possible surfaces encountered during our investigation.

Trial Trenching Evaluation

The initial trial trenching evaluation of the site commenced on 30 March 2007 with one trench (Trench 1) oriented north to south along the length of the front (west) side of the site. This immediately revealed footings and deposits from the Sutherland Arms Hotel, burnt down in 1941.

Following examination of the hotel remains and other archaeological features uncovered in this first trench the Planning Authority requested three additional trenches (Trenches 2, 3 and 4) perpendicular to the first (see Figure 4 below).

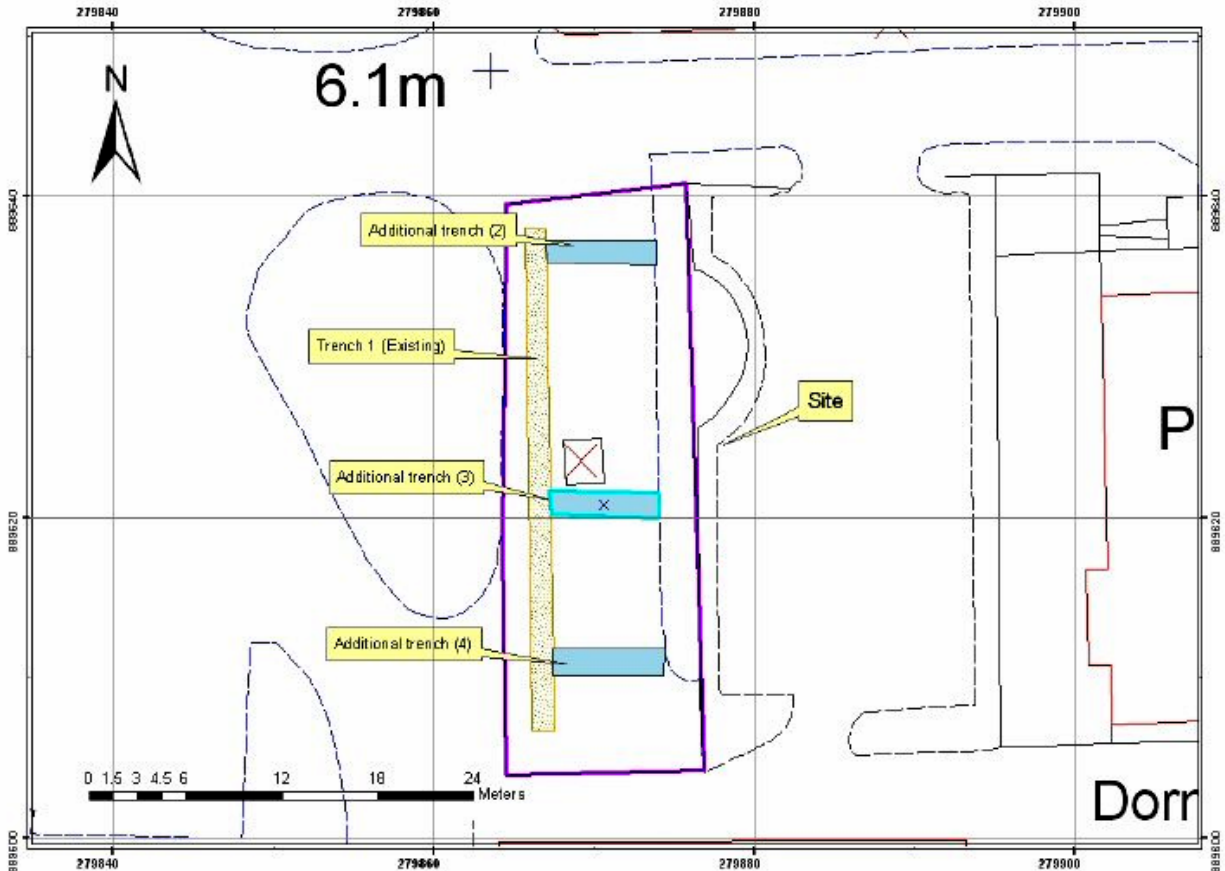


Figure 4 Additional trench locations

All trenches were excavated by JA Properties under archaeological supervision using a back-acting mechanical excavator with straight-edged bucket. They were subsequently cleaned by draw-hoe and hand trowel. Throughout the site the topsoil was very thin, gravelly sandy silt overlain by areas of turf/soil amongst concrete and tarmac surfaces remaining from the filling station. In Trench 1 the topsoil overlaid gravel layers associated with the hotel entrance.

The four trenches uncovered structural remains from the Sutherland Arms Hotel, deposits from the hotel fire, and many cuts for utility services associated with both the hotel and filling station. These areas both overlaid and cut through many structures and deposits of archaeological interest that are not associated with the hotel or the filling station, and they are addressed below. Appendix 1 shows the complete list of contexts recorded throughout the four trenches.

Sutherland Arms Hotel

Structures and deposits certainly associated with the Sutherland Arms Hotel were uncovered in Trench 1. The remains were identified using old hotel photographs from the local museum that show the front of the hotel coinciding with the approximate position of Trench 1. The 1909 photo (Fig 3 above) compared with a photo of about 1930 (Figure 5 below) show clearly that the timber veranda visible in 1909 had been demolished by the 1930s for the construction of a conservatory and the castellated doorway and bay window additions to the old building. The castellated addition was evidently designed to match the design of the new building.



Figure 5 Postcard: Sutherland Arms Hotel, about 1930.

Plans 1-4 of Trench 1 identify the hotel footings and other archaeological contexts. Collectively, Structures 108, 111 and 114 were the remains of the footings of the bay window and doorway additions (south of the conservatory). The sandstone slab and dry concrete bay window footings (Str. 111) measure approximately 4.5m along the line of the trench forming a rough semi-circle with a 0.5m-long concrete footing (108) on the south side. To the north side of the footing, dry concrete and sandstone slabs formed the castellated doorway footings (114). These measured 1.8m along the trench, followed by a 0.8m gap and another 0.5m length of sandstone/concrete footing that linked it in with the conservatory remains. The hotel conservatory footings (Structure 119) appeared to be of a similar construction of sandstone slab and concrete to the bay window, but rougher; they measured approximately 6m in length along the line of the trench.

Remains from the 1941 fire were also uncovered in Trench 1. Within the bay window footings, a dark grey-black ashy silt deposit (112) was identified. It contained numerous finds of burnt/broken glass, molten lead, ruined window fittings and burnt timber fragments. The same deposit was later uncovered in Trench 4 (404), which extended eastward from the centre of the bay window footing. However, a similar deposit was not found within the conservatory footing. It appears from hotel photos following the 1941 fire that the main hotel, the older building and bay window addition all lay in ruins. But the fire mostly avoided the conservatory, which explains the lack of fire rubbish on the surface inside it.

Based on the early photos and the identification of the hotel's bay window and conservatory footings, it was obvious that the line of Trench 1 followed roughly the front line of the hotel. And this was further corroborated by the existence of layers of gravel uncovered (Deposits 113-123-124-125) during the excavation of Trench 1. The gravel was most likely laid down and replenished many times at the hotel's entrance (seen above in photos of the hotel). Plan 1 shows four separate gravel deposits partially

excavated in the north corner of the conservatory footing. The gravel layers taper off in the trench profile toward the north end of Trench 1.

Evidence of the main (newer) hotel building was uncovered north of the conservatory footings (see Figure 6 below). A length of sandstone slab overlying sandstone fragments (Structure 131) along the trench extended approximately 10-20cm from the east edge of T1. It is underlain by Cut 142, probably associated with the hotel's construction. The location and orientation of the footings line up with the conservatory and bay window to tie in with the position for the main hotel.



Figure 6 Photo 25: Structure 131
Scale in 50cm divisions

Further evidence of the main building foundations appeared at the junction of Trenches 1 and 2 after extending the north end of Trench 1 and excavating the west end of Trench 2. Here, further structural footings (Structures 203, 204, 162 - see Plan 11) were revealed and the positions were tied in with Structure 131. The curvature to Structure 204, though greatly disturbed, served to identify it as the remains of the footing of a smaller bay window at the north end of the hotel. In addition, the fill (214) below Structures 203/204 appears identical to the fill in Cut 142, which extends along the east edge of Trench 1 to its north end. This fill (148 and 214), comprised sandstone and mortar fragments within mid brown gravelly soil/sand, and is most likely a rubble base used during the construction of the hotel. To verify the line-up of the archaeology remains, measurements taken on site between the remains of these hotel footings were compared with a scaled down map of Dornoch from 1906 and showed that the positions matched the map's footprint of the Sutherland Arms Hotel.

Finally, two probable hotel sleeper wall footings were uncovered in Trenches 2 and 4. Structure 205 in Trench 2 was overlain by a layer of burnt ashy silt with broken/burnt glass, burnt silver knife blade, melted copper vessel fragments and burnt wood fragments (see Finds photos from context 201)—very similar to the 1941 fire remains in Trench 1 (Deposit 112). The wall was loosely constructed of slate fragments and stone slabs within a dry mortar (Photo 60/Plan 11). This wall footing resembles Structure 403 in Trench 4 (Photo 87/Plan 13), which was overlain by dark brown-black ashy silt and bound to the west by a deposit of burnt material (404) that is identical to the fire deposit in Trench 1 (112).

There were no further convincing hotel remains in Trenches 1-4, probably because most of the hotel rubble was eventually cleared away after the fire and because the site's later use for a filling station has disturbed the entire area behind the main hotel.

Archaeological Deposits Pre-dating the Hotel

While the digging of Trench 2 helped to uncover further structural footings of the Sutherland Arms Hotel, the majority of this trench was found to be disturbed leaving little else in the way of convincing archaeological deposits. However, in Trenches 1, 3 and 4 there were other areas of archaeological interest uncovered that appear to predate the site's period as a hotel.

Sandstone drains and cobbled surfaces (Trenches 1, 3, 4)

In Trench 1, a nicely hewn sandstone drain (Structure 155 on Plan 10) was uncovered at the bottom of Cut 121 (same as Cuts 116 / 304). The identification of the cut itself was at first confused by the nature of its mixed fill (150), the overlying conservatory footing (119) and Cut 117. But further excavation revealed that Cut 116 and Cut 121 were the same.

Structure 155 was constructed of large yellow sandstone slabs lined on the sides by cobbles (see Figure 7 below), which covers a sandstone-slab drain passage. The drain runs across the trench along a southwest-northeast axis (see Plans 6, 10). Analysis of the stratigraphy (seen in the Cut 121 profile in Photo 51) showed that Cut 121 was made through Deposits 122, 151, and 153, all of which are potential surfaces of interest. No finds were recovered in association with the drain.



Figure 7 Photo 49; Structure 155
Scales in 50cm divisions

North of the sandstone drain, Deposit 122 (see Plan 1), also inside the conservatory footings (119), is a compact fine dark brown-black silt surface. It was left mostly *in situ*, though a corner section was cut within the north corner of 119 after the removal of the gravel surfaces (see Plan 9). This revealed the compact surface overlaid gravel/cobbles (153) embedded within a clay surface with fine shell fragments (151). Though no finds were recovered in the section, the surface, which probably underlies the whole of 122, predates the laying of the conservatory footings and the construction of the drain.

Trench 4 revealed another probable drain. The construction of this drain, Structure 408 (Plan 13), is very similar to 155: large yellow sandstone slabs edged with some large cobbles covering a slab-lined passage (see Photos 89-92). Structure 408, however, is narrower than and occurs at a higher level than 155. As well, a clear cut was not identified in association with its construction. There is a probable structural wall (409) built over the drain, so it is possible that the entire area over the drain was disturbed. It is also possible that during digging of the trench, the digger removed evidence of a cut before it could be identified by the archaeologist; but more likely no significant cut through topsoil was necessary in the construction of this drain. Once more, there is nothing to date drain 408, but it appears contemporary with the surfaces directly east of it.

East of the drain in Trench 4, two surfaces appear at the same level (see Plan 13 and Photo 92). Deposit 413 is adjacent to the drain and composed of very compact clay with several large (5-7cm) cobbles embedded within it. The surface extends for 1.2m east of the drain and runs into a cobbled surface (414) composed of medium (3-6cm) cobbles. The edge between the clay and cobbled surfaces is uncertain—the clay surface probably still partially overlies the cobbles. The cobbled surface extends eastward a further 1.0m and ends in a roughly hewn structural wall (Structure 416).

In Trench 3 (see Plan 12), a similar cobbled surface (312) appeared at the east end of the trench with a similar silty sand deposit overlying it. The surface is approximately 1.7m wide and was constructed to drain westward into a sandstone slab drain culvert (313). Levels show that it is on the same ground level as the previous cobbled surface (414) and, like 414, the cobbled surface ends to the east in a roughly hewn structural wall (Structure 314). To the west, however, the cobbled surface ends in the east face of a sandstone slab wall (311), which extends 30cm above the cobbles (see Figure 8 below).

This well-constructed wall (311) is overlain by compact, dry sandy silt (318) that merges into a deposit of very hard, compact clay (319) over the west face of the wall. The west wall face was uncovered during the course of the investigation in T3, when a new structure (310) was identified one metre west of the east face of 311 (refer to Plan 12). Two upright sandstone slabs sat *in situ* divided by an area 50cm wide of dark soily silt (320). After trowelling through this deposit, sandstone slabs were revealed on either side of the two facing stones (see Figure 9 below), forming a square opening 50cm by 50cm (now a pit, Structure 321). Deposit 320 (10cm deep) yielded a small button, clay pipe fragments and thin glass fragments.

Below the soil fill, sandstone fragments in wet silty sand (322) filled the stone pit (Plan 14). Further excavation through 322 revealed the face of a well-constructed sandstone wall inside the pit to the east elevation (see Figure 9, Photo 104, below and Plan 15). Presumably, this is the west wall face of Structure 311. After excavation in the pit, water pooled approximately 30cm into the bottom, suggesting that the pit had something to do with construction of an access to drainage or a water source.



Figure 8 Photo 77; East end of Trench 3
Scales in 50cm divisions

The pit (321), though not fully excavated, only reveals one side of a wall face and was apparently constructed on the side of a one-metre wide wall (311). This is further evidenced by the edge of Deposit 318 (a hard grey-brown surface) that overlies wall 311. The surface clearly changes just east of the two facing slabs that first revealed the sandstone pit (Figure 9, Photo 103 below). The change occurs over the line of the wall face of 311 uncovered inside the pit, and is different to the silty clay deposit/fill (319) over the pit. The transition line of 318 to 319 and the west wall face also line up with the western edge of the drain in T4, indicating a possible association. Of note, the western limit of Deposit 319 is not known since it is cut by a water pipe trench (Cut 306). Surface 319 possibly reappears west of the cut but it is uncertain if 319 and 309 are the same.



Figure 9 Photo 103: Structure 321; Photo 104: inside wall face of 321
Photo 103 Scale in 50cm division; Photo 104 Scale in 10cm divisions

Possible occupation surfaces in Trench 1

Plan 1 of Trench 1 shows two surfaces that are unrelated to structural remains north of the conservatory footings. The overlying surface fill was excavated over an area 1.5m long that was initially thought to be three different contexts: Deposits 127-129. Similarly, north of hotel footing 131, excavation through a layer of fill revealed Deposits 144-146. After two weeks of drying out (due to sunny weather conditions), both areas appeared to be single deposits / possible surfaces (see Figure 10 below) located at similar levels.



Figure 10 Photo 34: surfaces in Trench 1

In Figure 10, Deposits 127-129, in the top left corner (red box), appeared as one homogeneous grey-brown compact clay surface with a few cobbles embedded in it. On the right half of the photo (blue box), Deposits 144-146 appear as pale brown compact silty clay with numerous large cobbles and stone fragments embedded throughout it. Neither of the surfaces was excavated, and both surfaces are cut on opposing sides by service trenches (see Plan 1). Separating the two areas is a deposit of the natural sand subsoil (136) that is probably the result of an unintentional digger cut, and two other deposits of mid-brown sandy silt with various shells within (Deposits 134/135-probably the same, single deposit). One possibility is that the two areas are related habitation surfaces.

Lastly, at the north end of Trench 1, another completely different area of deposits appeared. A fine black-dark brown somewhat compact silt deposit formed a mound-like surface (140) with a black glass bottle fragment embedded in it. It was cut by an electric cable trench (Cut 139) to the south and Cut 142 to the

east. In the centre of 140, a cut area with small rubble fragments (Cut 147) extends from a row of large stones, Structure 141 (see Figure 11 below).



Figure 11 Photo 41: contexts 140, 141, 147
Scale in 50cm divisions

A later extension to the trench showed rubble-like fill (Deposit 159) inside the line of stones to the west (see Figure 12 below). Though no conclusions were able to be drawn, one suggestion is that Structure 141 is a curb-like edge to an earlier street surface (159).



Figure 12 Photo 66: north end of Trench 1 (structures 141/159)
Scale in 50cm divisions

Discussion

Sandstone drains and cobbled surfaces (T1, T3, T4)

Levels taken between sandstone slab drains 155 and 408 show that 155 was constructed lower than 408. The site was checked for water sources by dowsing, revealing that the probable paths of the drains cross and could interrelate. The path of the water from drain 155 may cross the path of the water from drain 408 roughly in the centre of the site. In addition, the path of 155 may cross north-eastward over the site, via the sandstone pit (321) in T3. These structures could relate to a wider network of drains within Dornoch.

Historical records from the Town Council meetings of Dornoch (Volume 2 from 1729-1809) tell of the need for improving the sanitation and drainage in Dornoch⁸. The Duke of Sutherland made improvements to Dornoch between 1811 and 1816, which include clearing small houses south of High Street and ruins/small houses in the castle close and straightening the town's burn⁹.

Figure 13 (below) shows a Map of Dornoch in 1811 and Figure 14 (below) shows a Map of Dornoch in 1832, clearly documenting the straightening of the burn between those years. One possibility could be that the sandstone drains are resulting infrastructure associated with this change—perhaps used for providing a link from the burn to residents on the eastern side of Dornoch. Another possibility is that the drains are unrelated to the burn and provided a start to the greatly needed infrastructure of sanitation drainage.

Next, the comparison of the cobbled surfaces in Trenches 3 and 4 and the structural wall remains at the east ends of the trenches suggests that the areas are related and the unexcavated area between the two trenches would connect them. This is further corroborated by levels taken on the cobbled surfaces.

Further comparisons of Plan 12 (Trench 3) with Plan 13 (Trench 4) show that start of the cobbled surfaces and the wall remains (314 and 416) at each trench's east end line up fairly well. Though levels show that the cobbled surfaces are most probably contemporary, the walls to the east require further excavating to confirm this.

The cobbles and the wall remains may be associated with a pre-hotel structure on the site and are possibly related to the wall remains (409) along the south edge of Trench 4 overlying the drain. The 1811 map of Dornoch (Figure 13) does show a structure on site, but the 1832 map of Dornoch (Figure 14) does not show a structure on site. However, it is equally possible that, since we cannot yet date the cobbles or walls and know very little about the layout of the hotel, the surfaces could relate to the earlier (south) building of the Sutherland Arms Hotel. In Trench 3, the cobbled surface was possibly overlain in places by burnt fill and rubbish from the hotel fire, which could show association with the hotel. However, this deposit appeared mixed with a topsoil fill and this shows through the south trench profile to have been a probable disturbed area. Therefore, with no conclusive finds relating to the walls, or cobbled surfaces, it is uncertain whether they related to an earlier structure or to the south wing of the hotel. Further excavation may clarify this.

⁸ Hook, Michael. *A History of the Royal Burgh of Dornoch*. Dornoch: Historylinks Museum, 2005: 36-37.

⁹ Ibid: 68-69.

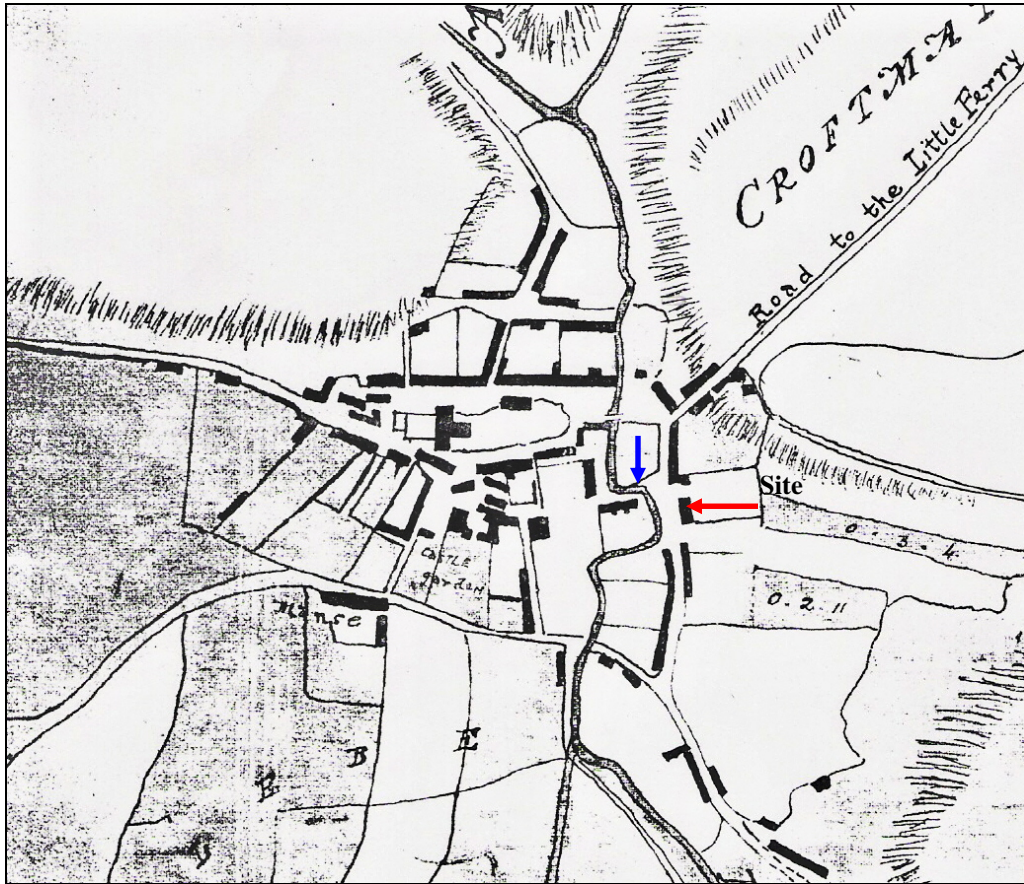


Figure 13 1811 Map of Dornoch

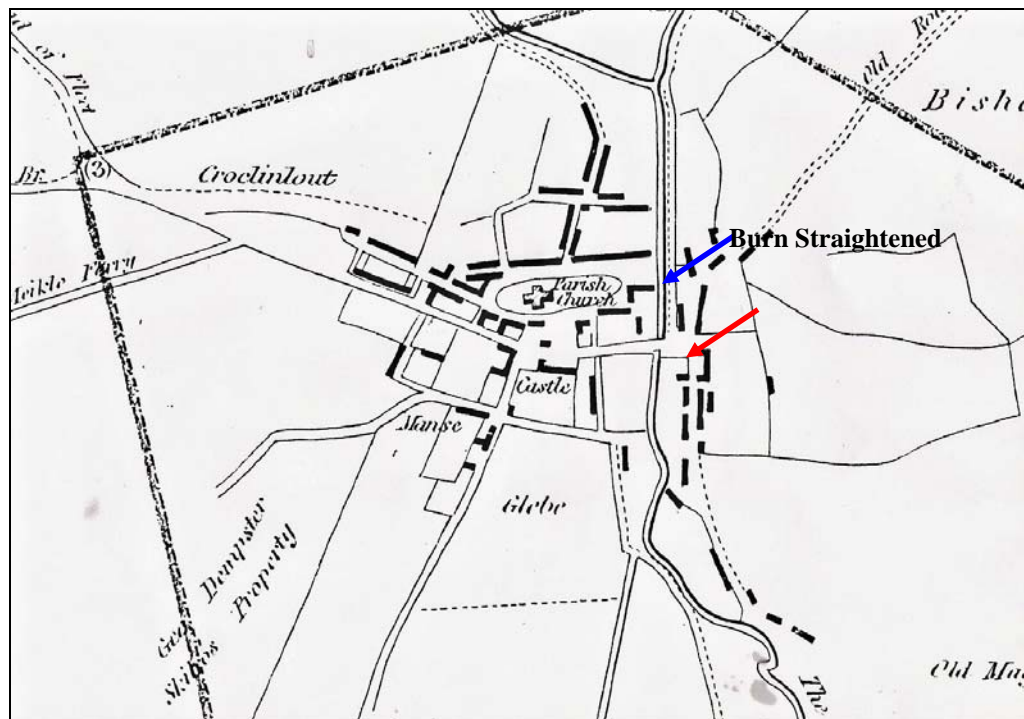


Figure 14 1832 Map of Dornoch

Next, the wall (311) and sandstone pit (321) west of the cobbled surface in T3 promote further interesting speculation about the relationship between the structures in T3 and T4 (see Figure 15 below). Again, comparing the plans of T3 and T4, the sandstone pit (321) appears as if it could have a connection with the drain in T4. The west wall face seen inside the pit lines up with the west edge of the drain in T4. This could suggest that the wall in T3 was built over the same drain passage that runs through T4, and that the pit was constructed to provide access to the passage below. If the wall was connected with an inhabited building, perhaps the pit provided an access to a sanitation drain. Or perhaps, conversely, this was an access point to a water source. Since we were unable to fully excavate the pit (due to its size), we did not see the final shape of it nor do we know the depth to which it extends.



Figure 15 Photo 105: east end of trench 2; Photo 94: east end of trench 4

Lastly, there are similarities between Deposit 412 west of the drain in Trench 4 and Deposit 319/309 west of the sandstone pit in Trench 3. After weeks of drying, all had a very compact clay surface showing through (see 319/309 in Photo 109). They are also reminiscent of Deposits 151/153 (clay surface underlying 122 in the centre of Trench 1) that could be remains of a habitation surface, and could even be related to them. Levels do indicate similarities between the surfaces in Trench 3 and Deposits 151/153.

Possible habitation surfaces in Trench 1

As proposed above, the surface-like deposits of interest in Trench 1, Deposits 127-129, 144-146 could be interrelated habitation surfaces—suggested by similar levels and by the similar quality of compact clay comprising both. Perhaps the surfaces are all that remains of a period when poorer inhabitants occupied the site, possibly from before 1811 or even much earlier—before the Duke had cleared out certain areas of Dornoch. It seems possible that Surface 127-129 is an internal habitation surface due to its smoother, more compact clay nature and that Surface 144-146 is a related outdoor habitation surface/yard with its very roughly cobbled appearance. This is further evidenced by the deposits filled with shell remains between them (discarded from cooking?). The areas remain unexcavated.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The object of the evaluation was simply to establish the archaeological character of the site. Initially it was thought that the filling station that occupied this site in the later 20th c. would have destroyed most of the archaeology. In the event this proved not to be the case, and we were surprised to find so many well-preserved remains of the former hotel as well as possible earlier features. These were uncovered and mapped, but not removed since they were not necessarily to be affected directly by the new development.

Where these features are to be preserved beneath the new building we propose that the principle of preservation in situ should be followed. However where foundations and service trenches are to be cut through these deposits they should be recorded archaeologically before they are destroyed.

This site is located in the heart of historic Dornoch, in an area where buildings are believed to have been removed in the early 19th century. At present it is difficult to draw any firm conclusions beyond those indicated above, and the wider cultural significance of the site is not yet clear.

We therefore recommend that further excavations should be undertaken, confined to the areas where disturbance is unavoidable. Apart from preserving a record of the features to be removed by the new development, this process should also provide a better understanding of the relationships between them and make it possible to establish the nature and extent of any pre-hotel occupation of the site. This in turn will allow us to draw some more general conclusions about the site's development within the wider story of Dornoch.

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Appendix 1 : Table of Contexts

Context No	Trench No	Context Type	Overlying Context	Photos	Description
100	1	Deposit	-	-	Unstratified Topsoil
101	1	Deposit	100	-	Gravel/tarmac layer overlying topsoil
102	1	Deposit	101	-	Topsoil / gravel mix
103	1	Cut	102	-	Water main trench with yellow sandstone rubble fill around orange ceramic pipe
104	1	Deposit	102	1	Pale brown-yellow silty sand
105	1	Cut	104	1	Trench for water connection; fill is mixed 102 around black plastic pipe
106	1	Deposit	102	1	Pale yellow sand, probable natural subsoil
107	1	Cut	102	1	Trench for electric power supply; fill is mixed 102 around black cable
108	1	Structure	102	2	Concrete slab adjacent to bay window footing-part of castellated feature
109	1	Cut	102	3	Trench for sewer connection; fill is topsoil mix around ceramic pipe
110	1	Deposit	102	-	Pale grey-brown silty sand with <1% gravel 0.5cm
111	1	Structure	102	2, 4, 12, 112	Yellow sandstone slab and concrete footing of bay window
112	1	Deposit	102	4	Brown-black ashy silt with broken glass and rubbish; fill within bay window footings, from 1941 fire
113	1	Deposit	102	11, 16	Compact gravel in light grey silt; upper layer of gravel remaining from hotel drive
114	1	Structure	102	5-7	Concrete and sandstone footing north of bay window footings--doorway footings associated with castellated feature
115	1	Deposit	114	7, 13	Dark brown-grey-black fine silt with <2% gravel <2.5mm below / around doorway, Structure 114. Similar to 122.
116	1	Cut	118	-	Same cut as 121, Cut for sandstone drain [155]; Fill is 118/150.
117	1	Cut	102	8	Trench for septic connection between conservatory footing and doorway
118	1	Deposit	102	-	Mixed yellow-light brown silty sand w/ 10% small gravel; Fill in Cut 116, same as 150

Context No	Trench No	Context Type	Overlying Context	Photos	Description
119	1	Structure	102	8-11, 14, 15, 17, 109, 112	Concrete and sandstone footing of hotel conservatory, loosely constructed
120	1	Deposit	102	-	Two small areas of rich, dark brown topsoil on north and south sides of conservatory footings; possibly from a planting area
121	1	Cut	150	8-10, 109	Same cut as 116; Cut for sandstone slab drain [155], fill is 150
122	1	Deposit	125	9, 10	Dark brown-black silty sand with very scattered charcoal fragments and patches of shelly sand; compact clay surface patching through (151)
123	1	Deposit	113	12, 16	Second layer of pea gravel in brown-grey silt, probably associated with hotel drive / entrance
124	1	Deposit	123	12, 16	Third layer of pea gravel in mid brown silt, probably associated with hotel drive / entrance
125	1	Deposit	124	12, 16	Fourth layer of pea gravel in mid brown-grey silt, probably associated with hotel drive / entrance
126	1	Cut	102	14, 15	Trench for sewer connection; fill is mix of topsoil layers with ceramic pipe; Located between [119] and deposit 157
127	1	Deposit	128	19-23, 34	Very compact, dark brown-grey clay surface with scattered burnt areas that appears possibly part of 128, 129; cut by 126 to south
128	1	Deposit	132	19-23, 34	Dark brown compact silt layer adjacent to 129; <5% pea gravel <0.25cm; evidence of clay patching through, or possibly a silty fill over a clay surface (same one showing through 127/129?)
129	1	Deposit/ surface	128	19-23, 34	Very compact clay surface with rubble/cobbles throughout; feels very surface-like; 129 probably same as 127.
130	1	Deposit	132	-	Loosely deposited cobbles and stone frags next to steel pipe; rubble fill in cut that appears circular in front of steel pipe.
131	1	Structure	125	25, 26	Footing of dry yellow sandstone structural wall; larger slabs sitting on layer of small sandstone frags;
132	1	Deposit	125	45	Rubble in mixed dark grey silty soil layer in places under gravel 125; extends from centre of 127--seen only in trench profile
133	1	Deposit	132	24	Thin layer of yellow sand with fine shell frags throughout in some places - appears to end around Cut 139

Context No	Trench No	Context Type	Overlying Context	Photos	Description
134	1	Deposit	133	24	Dark brown silty sand with <10% shell frags <1cm throughout; some small amounts of charcoal scattered through; between 132 and 136.
135	1	Deposit	131	31	Somewhat compact mixed dark brown - yellow silty sand with <30% shell fragments <1cm, some charcoal frags and some mortar / bone;
136	1	Deposit	134	24	Yellow sand with <5% smooth gravel <1cm; probably natural
137	1	Cut	102/mix	35	Trench for sewer connection; fill is mix topsoil with ceramic pipe within
138	1	Deposit	125 and mixed upper layers	36	Very compact dark brown-black silty sand with <3% gravel, and 5% sandstone frags and cobbles; Cut by 139 and bordered by 143, lens of 133 stops before this; Possible fill over clay/cobble surface like 146
139	1	Cut	102/mix	36	Trench for electrical connection with grey plastic pipe and mixed fill from upper layers
140	1	Deposit or surface?	125	36-43	Very compact, smooth dark brown-black silty sand at north end of trench; glass bottle within; cut by 142 and [141]; Probable surface associated with [141]
141	1	Structure	125	38-41, 65, 66	Large stones comprising probable structural wall at north end of trench; Partially embedded in 140.
142	1	Cut	148	37, 42	Probable trench cut during construction of structure east of trench (hotel founds?); fill is 148 with lots of rubble within and extends length of trench from north end to Str. 131.
143	1	Deposit	Mix of 125 and upper gravels	36	Surface of very compact dark brown sandy silt ; similar to 138 but less charcoal frags visible; also similar to 122 with stone frags throughout; between 138 and 137, probably same as 138
144	1	Deposit	135	30-32, 34	Possible cobbled surface under 135; Smooth cobbles approx 10-15cm embedded in clay with 5% shell frags embedded; prob. same as 145
145	1	Structure or deposit?	135	30, 33, 34	Possible compact clay and cobbled surface - maybe same as 144; embedded, angular sandstone frags <2cm within clay; next to cut drain and 144/138; prob. same as 144;
146	1	Deposit	135	30, 34	Compact dark brown-black silty sand with less shell but charcoal frags throughout; 5% smooth and angular cobbles <4cm within; prob. same as 144/145
147	1	Cut	125	37	Cut in centre of 140, between [141] and cut 142; full of loose fill/gravel like 148.

Context No	Trench No	Context Type	Overlying Context	Photos	Description
148	1	Deposit	125 / 148?	42	Fill inside 142; loosely deposited rubble in mixed mid-brown and yellow silty sand; mortar and slate frags; rubble is angular sandstone frags 5-15cm.
149	1	Deposit	Mix of 125 and upper gravels	43	Yellow, clean sand at north trench end; probably natural subsoil
150	1	Deposit	121/119	8-10	Mixed yellow sand brown silty sand; fill in cut 121;
151	1	Deposit	122	17, 18	Compact clay surface with fine shelly sand and charcoal frags embedded throughout and <1% pebbles <1cm; underlying 122;
152	1	Deposit	125	12, 13	Mixed gravelly soil with compact clay lumps patching through: Brown-yellow silty sand with 5-10% gravel; pebbles 1-2cm and some darker areas; possible drain cut to one side? Similar to 153.
153	1	Deposit	122	17, 18	Yellow-brown sand with 10% pebbles/gravel and some clay patches; mixed natural -looking like 153; appears during section of 122, next to 151.
154	1	Cut	113	12, 13	Possible drain cut into 152; by bay window footing and 122
155	1	Structure	150	46-53, 99, 100	Mostly yellow sandstone slabs and round cobbles 2-7cm of a roughly-hewn drain
156	1	Deposit	128	34	Compact, clay surface appearing through deposit 128; very like 151; some slate, charcoal and shell frags embedded in very tops of clay; probably a singled clay surface underlying 127-129
157	1	Deposit	125	14	Brown-yellow sand with 5% gravel; natural-like; similar to 152/153 but not clay visible; just a wedge of it between 126 and 127;
158	1	Deposit	125	-	Dark brown sandy silt with 1% gravel <0.5cm; overlying 159, wall fill
159	1	Structure	158	65, 66	Yellow/red sandstone fragments 7-12cm serving as structural fill or surface material inside wall of stones, 141; street?
160	1	Cut	161	63, 64	Linear cut, possibly utility trench in corner of North end of trench; this cuts into the natural
161	1	Deposit	132	63, 64	Mid brown silty sand with 5% gravel <1cm and scattered sandstone frags 2-5cm; Fill within cut 160

Context No	Trench No	Context Type	Overlying Context	Photos	Description
162	1	Structure	101/102	81-83	Boulder and sandstone footings of hotel, visible below 204 after extending north end of T1
200	2	Deposit	-	-	Unstratified fill
201	2	Deposit	-	-	Loose gravelly soil - topsoil mixed with rubble and tarmac
202	2	Cut	201	-	Utility trench for electrical connection, plastic black pipe that crosses over the top of west end of the trench
203	2	Structure	201	81-83, 111	Large yellow sandstone slabs at west end of trench forming front wall footings of later hotel structure; part of structure was undermined/disturbed by cut 202, but this lines up with Cut 142; same as 162
204	2	Structure	201	81-83, 111	Large building stones and slabs, mostly sandstone; this is the same as 203 though curving inward slightly, probably in connection with the bay window formerly in this location
205	2	Structure	201/206	58-60	Loosely hewn sandstone frags, with some slate frags, in a dry/weak mortar that probably formed hotel sleeper wall parallel with north side of trench; only lower portion remains, but top half of this is burnt with lot of burnt wood frags and ashy silt layer from poss. flooring overlying
206	2	Deposit	201	59, 60	Burnt rubble and wood and charcoal/ash layer starting east of Str. 204, and overlying 205 and trench around it
207	2	Deposit	206/201	58, 59, 62	Dark brown sandy silt under 206 in centre of trench; possible surface and similar to 140
208	2	Cut	209	58	Along central south edge of trench and next to 207; unknown use?
209	2	Deposit	201/206	-	Mid brown silty sand and yellow sand mix with 5% gravel 1-2cm; fill inside 208
210	2	Deposit	201	84	Pale brown-orange clayey sand with <10% sandstone frags; Lies E of 207; between 207 and 211; Prob natural
211	2	Deposit	201	58, 62	Clean yellow sand at E end of trench; probably natural
212	2	Cut	201	-	Very deep cut, not bottomed, filled with mix topsoil/gravel/rubbish; prob part of wide hole dug for fuel tanks--known to be wide, as unable to dig deep due to high water table
213	2	Deposit	211	61	Yellow-blue-grey silty sand underlying first layer of natural subsoil at trench E end

Context No	Trench No	Context Type	Overlying Context	Photos	Description
214	2	Deposit	204/203	83, 84	Structural block frags in fill, probably remains during building of hotel; scatter within but lower than hotel footing
215	2	Deposit	201/214	84	Natural subsoil, very clayey sand like 210; Cut out by digger during excavation; this context dug out west of 207/209
300	3	Deposit	-	-	Unstratified topsoil, mixed with tarmac and soil
301	3	Deposit	-	-	Loose sandy gravel, overlying most of T3
302	3	Deposit	301	-	Dark brown-dark grey loose gravel with some soil; probably hotel deposits, extends into T3 by about 1.6m
303	3	Deposit	301	-	Dark brown and black ashy silt with charcoal, burnt wood and burnt rubbish throughout; remains from 1941 hotel fire
304	3	Cut	305	67, 69, 109	Straight edges on two sides, cutting diagonally across trench--same as 155, for sandstone slab drain
305	3	Deposit	302	67, 69	Mostly yellow sand mixed with scattered dark brown gravel and <5% sandstone frags; fill of cut 304
306	3	Cut	302	70, 71	Trench cut for water connection; fill is mixed gravel with 301
307	3	Deposit	302	69	Surface/deposit south of Cut 304; Dark brown-grey sandy silt w/ pea gravel lens on top; possible clay surface remains below this; one stone slab visible under this
308	3	Deposit	302	68, 69	Mid brown sandy silt next to 317; fairly compact, maybe similar to 115
309	3	Deposit	302	70, 71	Mixed mid brown silty sand deposit west of Cut 306; very compact, possible clay mixed within or in a layer below this; possibly same as 319
310	3	Structure	319	72, 73, 105	Two facing stones within compact surface and lens of dark silty soil between--below this 321 was discovered; mortar appears on top of E slab
311	3	Structure	318	73-75, 107	Yellow sandstone slab wall perpendicular to trench; no mortar appears but sandstone very hard and set in place
312	3	Deposit	302/303	76-78, 107	Surface composed of round cobbles 3-5 cm; embedded in compact grey-yellow silty clay
313	3	Structure	302	76-78, 80	Sandstone slab drain culvert that cobbled surface drains into; thin compact clay lens over part of top slab; extends 0.36m deep, probably under 314 originally
314	3	Structure	315/316	79	Roughly hewn sandstone and other stone wall underlying topsoil / 303 mix; very east end of T3

Context No	Trench No	Context Type	Overlying Context	Photos	Description
315	3	Structure	316	79	Concrete footing with posthole and wooden post remains within; overlies 314 and probably associated with filling stations infrastructure
316	3	Deposit	-	-	Rich dark gravelly soil - topsoil for filling station planting area
317	3	Deposit	302	-	Mid brown and mixed yellow silty sand between 307 and 308; probably natural
318	3	Deposit	301	73	Compact grey-brown hard surface remains between 310 and 311 and meeting surface 319
319	3	Deposit	309	70, 71, 73	Compact yellow-light brown sandy silt layer west of 310 w/ patches of grey clay;
320	3	Deposit	302/319	72, 73	Dark brown-black silty soil - fill between facing slabs 310; slate frags under surface;
321	3	Structure	320	101-106	Sandstone slab lined pit filled with sandstone frags; overlain by 320
322	3	Deposit	320	104	Wet yellow sand, dark brown-grey silty clay mix; large red/yellow sandstone frags and cobbles 5-9cm within;
400	4	Deposit	-	-	Unstratified topsoil / gravel / tarmac
401	4	Deposit	-	-	Loose gravel / sandy soil mix
402	4	Structure	401	85,86	Yellow sandstone and loose concrete footing for inner bay window wall footing - very west end of trench; same as 111
403	4	Structure	401	85-88	Sandstone frag slabs in a loose mortar forming probable sleeper wall for hotel building; gap to south of wall, though remains of mortar still present so prob just damage but no evidence of a cut
404	4	Deposit	401	85-87	Dark-brown-black silt with burnt charcoal and rubbish throughout; layer of fill after hotel fire; between 402 and 403
405	4	Cut	401	86	Lies between 404 and south trench wall and fill is natural and mixed gravel from 401; possible utility trench
406	4	Deposit	401	88	Lens of shell fragments, east of 403
407	4	Deposit	401/404	88	Brown-yellow silty sand mix overlying compact clay that patches through; some burnt rubbish in corner by 403 and cut of natural cobbly sand comes through; v. like 115;

Context No	Trench No	Context Type	Overlying Context	Photos	Description
408	4	Structure	411 / 409	89-94, 97, 98, 108	Yellow and red sandstone slab drain similar to T1 drain but at different level; 3-6cm cobbles line sides
409	4	Structure	401	89-94	Disturbed or roughly hewn wall composed of sandstone and other slabs and some mortar that overlies drain along south edge of trench; perpendicular to 410 and overlies this, could be related to 416
410	4	Deposit	401/409	-	Light brown-yellow silty sand that overlies clay surface 413
411	4	Deposit	401/409	-	Light yellow sandy silt fill overlying drain 408
412	4	Deposit	401/406	88	Dark brown-black sandy silt with some compact clay patching through; shell lens overlies this; slate, shell and burnt frags remain over this in places; perpendicular and next to 407; some large cobbles within;
413	4	Deposit/ Surface	410	93-95, 108	Very compact clay surface with some large cobbles 5-6cm; large flat slabs stones form structure south of it (409)
414	4	Structure	415	94-96, 108	Cobbled surface, 3-7.5cm
415	4	Deposit	401	-	White-grey ashy silt overlying 414
416	4	Structure	417	96	Loosely hewn wall at E end of trench; large sandstone slabs with lot of compact silty soil overlying; same as E end of T3
417	4	Deposit	401	-	Rich topsoil fill over 416, planting area from filling station

Appendix 2 : Table of Site Plans

Plan No.	Overlying / Connecting Plan	Contents
1	7&8 / 4	Trench 1 : North half
2	- / 3	Trench 1 : South end
3	5 / 2&4	Trench 1 : South half
4	6 / 3&1	Trench 1 : South half
5	- / 6	Trench 1 : Overlay for Plan 3
6	- / 5	Trench 1 : Overlay for Plan 4
7	-	Trench 1 : Overlay for Plan 1
8	11	Trench 1 : Extension to North end
9	-	Trench 1 Section 1: Context 151, Section 3: Context 141/140
10	-	Trench 1 Section 2 / Profile 2: Cut 121, Structure 155
11	-	Trench 2 (w/ extended north end of Trench 1)
12	-	Trench 3
13	-	Trench 4
14	15	Trench 3 : Structure 310 / 321
15	-	Trench 3 : Structure 310 / 321

Appendix 3 : Table of Photographs

Photo No.	Camera Location (CP)	Direction Facing	Trench	Notes	Taken by	Date
1	CP1	S	1	Trench 1, south end; Contexts 104, 105, 106, 107;	MKP	02/04/07
2	CP2	E	1	Structure 108 (concrete footing) on right, Str. 111 (hotel bay window footing) on left	MKP	02/04/07
3	CP3	S	1	Trench 1, south end; Context 106, Cut 109 in foreground	MKP	02/04/07
4	CP4	SW	1	Structure 111 (hotel bay window footing), Deposit 112	MKP	02/04/07
5	CP5	N	1	Structure 114 (castellation feature around doorway)	MKP	02/04/07
6	CP6	NW	1	Structure 114, Deposit 124	MKP	02/04/07
7	CP4	W-NW	1	Str. 114, and doorway opening; deposit 115	MKP	02/04/07
8	CP7	W-NW	1	Structure 119 (hotel conservatory footing), Cut 121 (sandstone slab drain below); Cut 117 on left	MKP	02/04/07
9	CP4	N	1	Structure 119 (hotel conservatory footing), Cut 121 (sandstone slab drain below), Deposit 122 on right	MKP	02/04/07
10	CP8	E-NE	1	Structure 119, Cut 121, Deposit 122 on right	MKP	02/04/07
11	CP9	E	1	Str. 119; Gravel layers from left to right (113, 123, 124, 125)	MKP	02/04/07
12	CP11	W-NW	1	Deposit 152, Cut 154 (possible drain); Str. 111 (bay window footing) to left and gravel layers visible in profile	MKP	04/04/07
13	CP10	N	1	Deposit 152, Cut 154 (underlies Deposit 124); Deposit 115 in background	MKP	04/04/07
14	CP12	W	1	Cut 126, Deposit 157; Structure 119 (conservatory footing) to left	MKP	04/04/07
15	CP12	NW	1	Cut 126, Deposit 157; Structure 119 to left	MKP	04/04/07
16	CP10	W	1	Profile of gravel layers (113, 123, 124, 125)	MKP	04/04/07
17	CP9	E	1	Section 1, Deposits 153, 151--next to Str. 119	MKP	04/04/07
18	CP9	E	1	Profile of gravel/clay above 153/151 in Section 1	MKP	04/04/07
19	CP13	N	1	Possible surfaces after first stage cleaning (Deposits 127, 128, 129)	MKP	02/04/07

Photo No.	Camera Location (CP)	Direction Facing	Trench	Notes	Taken by	Date
20	CP13	N	1	Possible surfaces after first stage cleaning (Deposits 127, 128, 129)	MKP	02/04/07
21	CP14	NNW	1	Probable single surface appears after second cleaning (Deposits 127, 128, 129)	MKP	16/04/07
22	CP14	NW	1	Deposits 127, 128, 129 after two weeks of drying and subsequent cleaning; appears as a single compact clay surface	MKP	16/04/07
23	CP14	NW	1	Deposits 127, 128, 129 after two weeks of drying and subsequent cleaning; appears as a single compact clay surface	MKP	04/04/07
24	CP15	W	1	Profile view of west side of trench above Deposits 134/136; Fine shelly sand Deposit 133 visible in profile	MKP	04/04/07
25	CP15	E	1	Structure 131 (drystone sandstone slab wall) and cast iron pipe	MKP	04/04/07
26	CP15	E	1	Structure 131 (wall) - large sandstone slab overlying smaller sandstone fragments	MKP	02/04/07
27	CP16	NW	1	North end of T1 during first stage of cleaning	MKP	02/04/07
28	CP16	S	1	View over site after first stage of excavations in Trench 1	MKP	02/04/07
29	CP17	SSE	1	View over site after first stage of excavations in Trench 1	MKP	02/04/07
30	CP18	NNW	1	Deposits/Surfaces 144, 145, 146 after first stage cleaning	MKP	03/04/07
31	CP19	NW	1	Deposit 135 and Surface 144 after first cleaning	MKP	03/04/07
32	CP19	W	1	Deposit 144 after second cleaning (135 overlies this)	MKP	03/04/07
33	CP16	W	1	Surface 145 after second cleaning	MKP	03/04/07
34	CP20	SW	1	Probable surfaces in T1 after weeks of drying: 127-129 to left, 144-146 to right; iron pipe in between them	MKP	16/04/07
35	CP21	W	1	Cut 137, sewer pipe trench	MKP	03/04/07
36	CP22	W	1	Cut 139; Deposit 138 to left, 140 to right	MKP	04/04/07
37	CP23	S	1	Deposit/Surface 140, Cut by 142 to left and bisected by Cut 147 (poss. drain)	MKP	04/04/07
38	CP24	W	1	Structure 141 (large stones extending from west trench edge) overlying Surface 140	MKP	04/04/07
39	CP24	W	1	Structure 141 (large stones extending from west trench edge) overlying Surface 140	MKP	04/04/07

Photo No.	Camera Location (CP)	Direction Facing	Trench	Notes	Taken by	Date
40	CP23	S	1	Partial section of Surface 140 by north end of Structure 141	MKP	03/04/07
41	CP24	W	1	Surface 140 and Structure 141	MKP	03/04/07
42	CP23	S	1	Surface 140 and Cut 142 to the left	MKP	04/04/07
43	CP25	S	1	Natural sand deposit (149) north of 140	MKP	04/04/07
44	CP14	SSE	1	North end of T1 after second stage of cleaning	MKP	03/04/07
45	CP26	W	1	Trench 1 profile above Surface 129; Rubble layer, Deposit 132) visible	MKP	03/04/07
46	CP7	N	1	Recording Trench 1; J. Wombell standing in Cut 121 on top of Structure 155 (sandstone slab drain)	MKP	04/04/07
47	CP27	NNE	1	Sandstone slab drain (Structure 155)	MKP	04/04/07
48	CP27	NE	1	Sandstone slab drain (Structure 155)	MKP	04/04/07
49	CP27	NE	1	Sandstone slab drain (Structure 155)	MKP	04/04/07
50	CP28	NW	1	Profile of trench face above northwest side of Str. 155; cobbles surrounding sides of drain visible; layer of compact clay with semi-circular cut (not made by excavator) visible by scale	MKP	04/04/07
51	CP28	NW	1	Profile of trench face above northwest side of Str. 155; cobbles surrounding sides of drain visible; layer of compact clay with semi-circular cut (not made by excavator) visible by scale	MKP	04/04/07
52	CP28	E	1	Profile of trench face above east side of Str. 155; Evidence of mixed fill that composed Deposit 150 (fill in cut 121); Grey silty sand patch that smelled of fuel contamination	MKP	04/04/07
53	CP28	S	1	Profile of trench face above south side of Str. 155; evidence of mixed fill that composed Deposit 150 (fill in Cut 121)	MKP	04/04/07
54	CP29	S	1	View over south half of Trench 1 after cleaning, hotel foundations (Str. 111 and Str. 119) clearly visible	MKP	04/04/07
55	CP24	SSW	1	View along Trench 1 after first stage evaluations	MKP	04/04/07
56	CP30	NW		View over site after first stage evaluations	MKP	04/04/07

Photo No.	Camera Location (CP)	Direction Facing	Trench	Notes	Taken by	Date
57	-	E		Dornoch Square, site in centre behind paved sitting area	MKP	05/04/07
58	CP31	NW	2	Centre of Trench 2: Sleeper wall (Str. 205), Deposit/Surface 207 (Dark silty area), gravelly sand Deposits 208/211	MKP	12/04/07
59	CP31	NW	2	Centre of Trench 2: Sleeper wall and dark silty surface (207); Burnt deposit 206 behind wall	MKP	12/04/07
60	CP32	E	2	Str. 205 and Deposit 206 - wall and burnt deposit	MKP	12/04/07
61	CP33	WNW	2	East end of Trench 2, Deposit 213	MKP	12/04/07
62	CP33	W	2	West half of Trench 2 during cleaning; Deposit 207 visible behind 211 (gravelly sand)	MKP	12/04/07
63	CP34	W	1	North end of Trench 1, Cut 160 in corner	MKP	12/04/07
64	CP34	NW	1	North end of Trench 1, Cut 160 in corner	MKP	12/04/07
65	CP22	NNW	1	Str 141 (large line of stones) and Str. 159 (sandstone fragment surface inside of Str. 141); Surface 140 also visible and very dry, revealing compact clay within	MKP	12/04/07
66	CP22	NW	1	Str 141 (large line of stones) and Str. 159 (sandstone fragment surface inside of Str. 141); Surface 140 also visible and very dry, revealing compact clay within	MKP	12/04/07
67	CP35	E	3	Deposit 305 within Cut 304 at west end of Trench 3; Same cut as sandstone drain cut in Trench 1	MKP	12/04/07
68	CP36	E	3	Deposits 309, 308 at east half of T3	MKP	12/04/07
69	CP37	SE	3	West half of T3: Deposits 309, 308, 307, Cut 304	MKP	12/04/07
70	CP38	SE	3	Cut 306 for water pipe, Deposit 309 to right, 319 to left of cut; centre of T3	MKP	12/04/07
71	CP38	S	3	Cut 306 for water pipe	MKP	12/04/07
72	CP39	S	3	Facing stones Str. 310 prior to excavation, dark Deposit 320 in between stones	MKP	12/04/07
73	CP38	SE	3	Str. 310 with Cut 306 to right and wall Str. 311 to left	MKP	12/04/07

Photo No.	Camera Location (CP)	Direction Facing	Trench	Notes	Taken by	Date
74	CP40	S	3	Wall Structure 311 edge clearly visible under compact sandy silt deposit	MKP	12/04/07
75	CP40	S	3	Wall Structure 311 edge clearly visible under compact sandy silt deposit	MKP	12/04/07
76	CP40	ESE	3	Cobbled surface (312) flanked by wall (311) and sandstone drain culvert (313) / concrete slab (315)	MKP	12/04/07
77	CP41	SW	3	Cobbled surface (312) flanked by wall (311) to right and sandstone drain culvert (313) / concrete slab (315) to left	MKP	12/04/07
78	CP40	ESE	3	Cobbled surface (312) draining into sandstone drain culvert (313)	MKP	12/04/07
79	CP41	S	3	Roughly hewn wall (Str. 314) and sandstone slab (315) at east end of T3	MKP	12/04/07
80	CP42	E	3	Str. 313, sandstone drain culvert	MKP	12/04/07
81	CP17	E	2	West end of T2 after cleaning; Str. 203 (hotel foundations) to left and remains of Str. 204 (probable hotel footings) to right	MKP	12/04/07
82	CP17	ESE	2	West end of T2 after cleaning; Str. 203 (hotel foundations) to left and remains of Str. 204 (probable hotel footings) to right	MKP	12/04/07
83	CP43	N	2	West end of T2 by north end of T1; Str. 203 (hotel foundations) above and remains of Str. 204 (probable hotel footings) crossing in front	MKP	12/04/07
84	CP44	E	2	West half of T1 : Cut 202 for pipe, Deposit 210 below; Deposit 215 behind	MKP	12/04/07
85	CP45	SE	4	Deposit 404, black, burnt ashy fill behind hotel bay window footing(402); Str. 403 (sleeper wall) above burnt area	MKP	12/04/07
86	CP46	WSW	4	Deposit 404 (burnt black area) with Cut 405 visible to left along trench edge	MKP	12/04/07
87	CP46	WSW	4	Str. 403, probable hotel sleeper wall	MKP	12/04/07
88	CP46	SE	4	Centre of T4 - Between Str. 408 and Str. 403: Deposits 407, 412 and deposit of shell remains (406)	MKP	12/04/07
89	CP47	ENE	4	Structure 408 : Sandstone drain	MKP	13/04/07
90	CP47	NE	4	Structure 408 : Sandstone drain	MKP	13/04/07

Photo No.	Camera Location (CP)	Direction Facing	Trench	Notes	Taken by	Date
91	CP48	SE	4	Structure 409 : remains of later wall overlying drain	MKP	13/04/07
92	CP48	E	4	Str. 409 (wall overlying drain 408) and east end of T4	MKP	13/04/07
93	CP49	SW	4	Packed clay surface 413 in between cobbled surface and drain 408	MKP	13/04/07
94	CP47	NE	4	Packed clay surface 413 in between cobbled surface and drain 408	MKP	13/04/07
95	CP50	ENE	4	Cobbled surface 414 at east end of T4 (like 312 in T3)	MKP	13/04/07
96	CP51	E	4	Cobbled surface and roughly hewn wall remains (Str. 416) at east end of T4	MKP	13/04/07
97	CP52	-	4	Inside sandstone drain (408) in T4	MKP	13/04/07
98	CP52	-	4	Inside sandstone drain (408) in T4	MKP	13/04/07
99	CP7	-	1	Inside sandstone drain (155) in T1	MKP	13/04/07
100	CP7	-	1	Inside sandstone drain (155) in T1	MKP	13/04/07
101	CP53	-	3	Structure 321 sandstone slabbed pit: first level of cleaning below fill 320 in between facing stones (Str. 310);	MKP	13/04/07
102	CP53	E	3	Structure 310/321 : sandstone slab pit after second level of excavating through fill 322	MKP	16/04/07
103	CP53	E	3	Structure 310/321; Surfaces 309/318 visible on either side	MKP	16/04/07
104	CP53	-	3	Structure 321 : sandstone slab pit after second level of excavating through fill 322; well-built wall (Str. 319) visible within	MKP	16/04/07
105	CP54	ENE	3	East end of T3; Str 321, cobbled surface 312, Str 313/314	MKP	16/04/07
106	CP55	N	3	Deposits surrounding Str 321 after final cleaning: silty sand surface 309 left side of 321, compact silty clay surface on the right side (with wall below)	MKP	16/04/07
107	CP55	NE	3	East end of T3, cobbled surface (312) and wall (311)	MKP	16/04/07
108	CP56	S	4	Cobbled surface at east end of T4: similar cobbled surface to 312 in east end of T3; 408/413 also clearly visible	MKP	16/04/07

Photo No.	Camera Location (CP)	Direction Facing	Trench	Notes	Taken by	Date
109	CP55	WNW	3/1	West end of T3 to show line-up of Cut 304 with sandstone drain (155) in T1	MKP	16/04/07
110	CP55	NW	3/1	West end of T3 and North end of T1	MKP	16/04/07
111	CP57	N	2	West end of T2	MKP	16/04/07
112	CP57	S	3/4/1	Overall site from T2: T3, T4 and T1 visible	MKP	16/04/07

Appendix 4: Highland Council Archaeological Brief

1) Background

The application area lies within Dornoch Square to the east of the medieval cathedral and Bishop's Palace/Castle. Dornoch is an historic burgh – the most important in Sutherland - and bears the hallmark of having been deliberately “planned” or laid out in the medieval period. The eastern extent of this burgh has not been fully determined, but there are also reports of a friary lying on its eastern side. The application area therefore lies in an area of archaeological significance to our understanding of the development of the town.

While it is expected that archaeological deposits across part of the development area will already have been truncated/removed it is believed that in view of the importance of this area of the burgh to our understanding of its early development, that a programme of archaeological recording is still required to ascertain archaeological survival and significance and to allow recording of all deposits and finds that survive undisturbed.

In this case the nature and extent of the potential archaeological features need to be established. An archaeological evaluation aims to identify any such features at the earliest possible stage to minimise the risk of finds or features of interest being discovered and damaged during site works. This approach is intended to ensure that any archaeology on site is identified and recorded with minimum delay or disruption to the development.

The archaeologist carrying out the evaluation will present a brief report containing the conclusions of this work and propose mitigation and recording arrangements to be followed in this scheme. Such arrangements might include redesign where practicable to avoid key areas, excavation and recording of features, and / or an archaeological watching brief on site clearance and excavations for construction purposes.

The brief sets out in detail who is responsible for what, as well as the terms of reference, objectives, method, monitoring and reporting arrangements.

2) Terms of Reference

This brief specifies what is considered to be the minimum acceptable standard of work; proposals that present a higher standard may be offered and accepted. It is assumed that this will form the basis of an agreed approach unless changes are agreed with Highland Council Archaeology Unit in writing before the start of any site works.

This brief has been produced for the applicant, who will be responsible for the work, including any tendering and contractual arrangements. The area to be covered by this assessment should be the entire development area: including any proposed services, access roads, works compounds, borrow pits or other ancillary works.

The work should be carried out by, or under the immediate direction of, a member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists to ensure that work is carried out to professional standards. The Archaeology Unit may refuse to accept work from, or otherwise take action against, archaeologists who fail to carry out work to

these standards. Before site works start, the proposed arrangements, including a timetable for the work should be agreed with the Highland Council Archaeology Unit in writing.

The brief has been produced specifically for this scheme based on documents supplied at the time it was issued. It is valid for one year from the date of issue.

3) Objectives

- To identify the location, nature and extent of any features or objects of archaeological importance that would be damaged or destroyed by this development.
- To propose arrangements for the safeguarding where possible, and recording where necessary of any archaeological features or finds identified. These will need to be agreed with the Highland Council Archaeology Unit.
- To make sure that the needs for archaeological conservation and recording are met without causing any unnecessary delay or disturbance to the development project.

4) Method

a. Desk-based Assessment

- A check of all relevant archaeological / historical records, maps and aerial photographs should be undertaken. The following sources are recommended as a minimum:
- The Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). *Please note - the online SMR 'Am Baile' is not designed for use in development control, for assembling information for forestry or agri-environment schemes, or for constructing management policy of sites. In order to source the full SMR information required for such studies all consultants should approach the Highland Council Archaeology Unit directly.*
- The National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS)
- Historic Scotland's databases of listed buildings, Scheduled Ancient Monuments and monuments proposed for scheduling.
- Vertical stereo aerial photographic coverage held by RCAHMS and the Highland Council Archaeology Unit.
- Ordnance Survey map coverage from 1850 onwards, and any other readily available early cartographic sources held at the National Library of Scotland Map Library.
- Bibliographic references and early parish accounts.

b. Trial Trenching

Trial trenches will be excavated by (or under the direction of) the Archaeological Contractor to provide a sample of at least 5% of the total application area. The location of these trenches will be informed by the results of the desk-based work and must be accurately plotted on the site plan.

Trenches should cover the development area spatially and target potential archaeological features and apparently "blank" areas. They should be a mixture of linear and box shaped trenches and should be extended as necessary in order to expose and evaluate archaeological features.

5) Report

A report must be produced which sets out the results of the work and makes recommendations for any required further work.

The Council will assume author's copyright unless advised otherwise. However, HCAU reserves the right to make the report available for reference and research purposes, either on paper, or electronically. The completed report will be made available for immediate public consultation for research purposes at the Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record, and through the public library service. The Archaeology Unit will acknowledge copyright in all cases.

a) Content

The report must include as a minimum:

- Location plan (bound into the report) showing the project area; area of evaluation; and relevant archaeological sites and features in the vicinity. The location plan must also show the position of features identified during the work.
- A detailed site background, including reference to previous work conducted in the wider area on similar developments and the results of such work.
- The circumstances and objectives of this work.
- An analysis of the project results drawing in comparative data; a statement regarding the potential for, and survival of, buried prehistoric sites in this area; and a statement of the significance of the results (as per the Burra Charter).
- Scale plans, sections and photographs of all significant archaeological features noted.
- A full index to any records or other material generated by the project including the archive location.
- A list of finds, as appropriate, set out in the required format for Treasure Trove reporting.
- Details of the sampling and finds retention policies and their justification.
- A copy of this Specification for the required work, presented as an Appendix (*sic*).
- Weather and other conditions affecting fieldwork.
- Proposals for presenting the results of the work to the local community where appropriate.

b) Distribution

The archaeologist appointed is responsible for making sure copies of the report have been received by the recipients listed below. The archaeologist appointed should allow for all costs when estimating for the work. We require archaeologists to submit satisfactory reports within the agreed deadline.

Apart from any copies required by the client, at least four copies of the project report must be produced by the archaeologist. These must be submitted to all of the following within 4 weeks of the completion of the field work.

- One paper copy for the Council's Area Planning and Building Standards Manager, District Council Offices, The Meadows, Dornoch, IV24 3SF.
- One paper copy to be deposited with the Council's Senior Librarian Information Co-ordinator, Libraries Support Unit, 31a Harbour Road, Inverness IV1 1OY. This will be available for public consultation through the public library service
- One paper copy to be deposited with the Council's Assistant Curator (Archaeology), Museum & Art Gallery, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3EB (This copy will only be required if there are finds).
- One digital copy for the Archaeology Unit, Planning and Development Service, Council Offices, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness IV3 5NX : The report should be supplied by email or on a computer disc as a pdf file. Please ensure that all drawings and photographs are included.

c) Other Products of the Work

Where significant archaeology has been found, the archaeologist must arrange a presentation of the project results, to the local community within a year of the completion of the fieldwork. This is the responsibility of the Archaeological Contractor, and will not be funded by the Highland Council.

A brief summary of the results must be sent to the Council for Scottish Archaeology for inclusion in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*.

6) Monitoring

The Archaeological Contractor is responsible for agreeing arrangements for monitoring with Archaeology Unit staff. We will monitor projects as necessary to ensure that minimum standards are met. Prior notice of fieldwork starting dates, with contact names, telephone numbers and arrangements for access must be given to the Highland Council Archaeology Unit by the Archaeological Contractor.

Any unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries, or other unexpected occurrences which might significantly affect the archaeological work and / or the development must be notified by the Archaeological Contractor immediately to the applicant and the Highland Council Archaeology Unit. The finds or features must be left in situ until arrangements have been agreed for safeguarding or recording them. In the meantime work may continue on other areas of the site.

7) Finds

Chance finds can be made during any archaeological fieldwork. Archaeologists should note that advice and facilities for emergency conservation and temporary storage can be offered by Inverness Museum. All finds should be notified for Treasure Trove.

8) Insurance

The archaeologist appointed must take all necessary measures to conform with the Health and Safety at Work Acts and be covered by all necessary insurance. Section 24 of the Highland Council's revised Contracts Standing Orders states:

All specifications issued by and contracts entered into with the Council in connection with the carrying out of work or the provision of services shall provide that the contractor holds a valid insurance policy, approved by the Council, for:-

1. **Employers liability - minimum limit - £10m (statutory limit)**
2. **Public liability - minimum limit £5m.**

9) General

The archaeologist agrees by undertaking this work to the terms of this brief, including the following:

The archaeologist appointed must:

- carry out the work according to the Code of Conduct, standards and guidance of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- agree a timetable for the work with the client and the HC Archaeology Unit.
- not comment to the press or other media without prior approval from the applicant and HC Archaeology Unit.

Any Health and Safety incidents on site involving the archaeologist must be immediately notified to the Health and Safety Executive.

This brief has been produced by the Highland Council Archaeology Unit, to whom any enquiries should be addressed. No one else has authority to vary its terms.

Highland Council Archaeology Unit

28 February 2007